175
168 a child (1936:76). No adult of reproductive age seems to have re-
834 mained for long outside of a marriage bond. Extramarital sexual
[837] encounters were not uncommon, and adolescents were not prevented from
[836] sexual experimentation (1936:72). The separation of sexual partners
did not intervene to limit population size.

175 Contraceptive measures are reported to have been familiar to both
168 men and women (1936:73). These include "bush medicines" and "ritual-
842 istic treatments" performed by a piaiman or shaman. However, the
[756] exact species are not identified and their efficacy as well as the
incidence of their use are not noted. Old women were reported to have
[887] been experienced in inducing abortions through the use of an infusion
[847] of bush herbs and manual manipulation including the insertion of small,
sharp sticks.

175 Aside from these behavioral controls, there apparently were
145 physiological factors at work. These are mentioned but their effects
168 cannot be established. Gillin notes, for example, that it was rare
for an adolescent girl to become pregnant (1936:73). Regarding this
observation, Gillin suggests that temporary sterility and ineptness
of technique may explain the lack of pregnancies. Also, the incidence
[164] of malaria, hook worm, round worm, and other parasites may have con-
tributed to periods of sexual inactivity and temporary sterility as
well as affecting the mortality of infants and others.

175 In sum, for the 1932-33 period, those behavioral and physiological
162 factors which affected population size were recorded without regard
for their situational context. Still, the reproductive results seem
clear: i.e., the ratio of adults to children was about one to one in

of children occurs throughout the segments of this population. The Air Strip population of 333 has 164 or 49.0 percent under ten. The remaining population of 218 in the satellite settlements includes 117 under ten. This is 53.7 percent of this portion of the population. As is apparent, the increase in population size and the change in reproductive pattern responsible for it have occurred commonly among the Upper Barama River Carib population.

With regard to the current reproductive pattern, a married state continues to be common for all adults of reproductive age. Also, there are no restrictions on the sexual activity of married couples, and the practice of couvade which rendered a father inactive in all ways for a few weeks after the birth of his child is being abandoned. Extramarital sexual encounters are common among all ages. Nevertheless, young women become pregnant for the first time usually between the ages of eighteen and twenty-two. After this, they have about twenty-five reproductive years during which a woman tends to give birth to a child every twenty to thirty months.[12] According to this pattern, every fertile woman has the potential to reproduce about twelve to thirteen children.[13] The women in monoganous as well as polygynous unions tend to realize this potential. Solien de Gonzáles (1966) has suggested that long term, intensive lactation may supress ovulation. Although the interplay of behavioral and physiological factors may be complex, the reproductive results in this case are clear.

In the general ratio of women to children in the total population, there are eighty-two women between the ages of twenty and forty-four,